Appl. No. 10/063,145
Amdt. dated March 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2004

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A system ~~reporting tool is provided for rapidly generating a~~ generates linked sets of drill-down-enabled reports of increasing levels of detail from ~~a relational~~ one or more databases. ~~The reporting tool permits a client to define the~~ Linking ~~linking~~ relationships between reports are defined using the ~~simple~~ query language of the databases. ~~commands to generate a~~ Result ~~result~~ sets are obtained that ~~includes~~ (1) the sought-after data, and (2) metadata that identifies drill-down reports to be generated if related report elements are selected. When the query is executed, the ~~The reporting tool~~ system passes the ~~client-defined queries to a database engine, which returns a result set containing both the sought-after data and any metadata. The reporting tool then parses the result set for any metadata containing drill-down directives. The reporting tool then passes the~~ sought-after data to a reporting application programming interface, which generates a report ~~the pre-selected graphical representation~~ (e.g., a pie chart, 3-D bar chart, cross-tabbed table) ~~of the sought-after data, in a hypertext format.~~ If an end-user selects one of the report elements (e.g., ~~pie slice, 3-D bar, cell~~ a bar on the chart), the ~~of the graphical object, the~~ application ~~programming interface reports the event to the reporting tool. The reporting tool~~ system maps the reported event to the associated data of the result set. If the associated data has corresponding meta-data containing a ~~and the corresponding~~ drill-down directive, the system ~~if any. The reporting tool~~ then generates ~~invokes~~ the report identified by the drill-down directive, ~~using any parameters provided by the drill-down directive, in order to generate another result set and corresponding drill-down report.~~